



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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MEMA HOSTS HURRICANE SEMINAR FOR MEDIA

On June 21, MEMA, the National Hurricane Center (NHC), National Weather Service (NWS) Taunton and FEMA hosted a three-hour seminar for our regional media partners to better prepare to serve the public should Massachusetts face an impending hurricane or tropical storm. The seminar provided an opportunity more than 30 News Directors, Editors, Assignment Editors, Reporters, and Broadcast Meteorologists to engage in discussions with officials from NHC, NWS, MEMA and FEMA regarding new hurricane forecasting products and how they can be used, the criticality of coordinated public messaging, potential impacts the Commonwealth could experience during a hurricane or tropical storm, the new Evacuation Clearance Time Estimate, the 'Know Your Zone' (hurricane evacuation zone) program, and the updated Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan. Presenters included NHC Director Dr. Richard Knapp, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Bob Thompson, MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, FEMA Hurricane Program Manager Paul Morey and MEMA Deputy Director Christine Packard.



KNOW YOUR ZONE REMINDER

MEMA continues to encourage residents through the "Know Your Zone" campaign to find out whether they live, work or plan on vacationing in a hurricane evacuation zone. MEMA, in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the Commonwealth's coastal communities, has developed hurricane evacuation zones for each coastal community in the Commonwealth. Most coastal communities have two hurricane evacuation zones (Zones A and B), while Boston and Cambridge have three hurricane evacuation zones (Zones A, B and C). These hurricane evacuation zones were created based on the communities' inundation maps, which identify the areas most at risk of experiencing dangerous flooding from the storm surge associated with an approaching tropical storm or hurricane.

Storm surge is the large volume of ocean water – generally measured in feet above ground - that is driven on land and up waterways during a hurricane or tropical storm. Storm surge poses the greatest threat to life and property – even more so than wind – during a hurricane or tropical storm. If local or state officials need to issue evacuation recommendations or orders as a tropical storm or hurricane approaches, they will do so by referring to the Hurricane Evacuation Zones (Zone A, B or C). The interactive Hurricane Evacuation Zone Maps can be found at www.mass.gov/knowyourzone.

MEMA HOSTS INSAWG

On June 14, MEMA hosted a meeting of the International Notification and Situational Awareness Working Group (INSAWG). The mission of INSAWG is promoting incident communication notifications to meet the requirements of the Vienna Convention of 1963 and ensuring that Consulate General offices are informed when foreign nationals, visitors and students may be impacted by emergency situations. INSAWG includes representatives from the Consular General offices, federal agencies (FEMA, U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Financial Management, U.S. State Department), state agencies (MEMA, Department of Public Health), local health commissions, volunteer organizations, and colleges and universities. As potential providers of translation services and cultural resources, the Consulate General offices are also resources for family assistance, education, and support during the recovery phase of a disaster. The meeting's presenters included Mike Russas, MEMA's Response and Field Services Section Chief, who highlighted the processes and protocols for information sharing and notification used by MEMA prior to, during and after disasters, and Jaci Hamel, MEMA's Operations Unit Supervisor, who summarized the Health and Homeland Alert System (HHAN) notification system emphasizing the benefits of this notification process and how it can be best utilized by the Consulate Offices.

FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

During the month of June, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

- June 2: MEMA provided cache radios to support the FEMA Community Point of Distribution (POD) training at UMass Amherst.
- June 11: MEMA provided cache radio and an event channel to support the 'Bike to Vermont' event.
- June 16: MEMA provide cache radios and an event channel to support an emergency medical services (EMS) exercise in North Adams.
- June 26: MEMA provided a Mobile Field Tent to support Cohasset's Triathlon. The Mobile Field Tent was utilized as a staging area for police and fire department personnel.

LATEST FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS FOR 2015 BLIZZARD

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continue to advance. As of June 30, 2016, 899 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$58.3M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$77.7M obligated project costs).

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of June, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 189 students in 10 courses:

- *ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents*
- *ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents*
- *ICS-400: Advanced ICS*
- *ICS-402: ICS Overview for Executives & Senior Officials*
- *Basic Public Information Office Course*
- *Preparing & Reviewing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans Workshop*
- *Emergency Operations Center Management & Operations*
- *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer*
- *Hazardous Materials Response-Awareness Level*

To date, in 2016, 1,326 students have taken 57 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

CEAS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

MEMA continues to partner with the non-profit Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNET) to promote and implement the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) in Massachusetts. CEAS is a post-disaster business continuity program that facilitates travel and access into restricted areas for key private sector personnel and resources during times of emergency through the use of a common credential. The program provides a simple means of identification -- a centrally issued, pre-authorized secure credential which is allocated to a limited number of employees of eligible companies and organizations. Now that we are in this year's Hurricane Season, businesses and organizations throughout the Commonwealth are encouraged to visit the CEAS website at www.ceas.com/ma to learn more about CEAS and how it can be incorporated into their continuity planning.

FEMA CONTINUES ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES DEBRIS PILOT

As of June 28, 2016, FEMA has extended the Public Assistance (PA) Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot for another year. The PA Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot program was one of the first provisions to be developed under the authorities of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, which was signed into law on January 29, 2013. This incentive program, designed to accelerate debris removal operations, increases the federal cost share for debris removal from 75% to up to 85% when an eligible applicant completes debris removal operations within a specified timeframe. In addition, the pilot allows eligible applicants to use income from recycled debris without offsetting the FEMA reimbursement amount; includes reimbursement for base/regular time in addition to overtime wages for force account (employees); and offers other incentives for applicants to develop pre-disaster debris management plans. During the past three years, FEMA has used the Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot to award more than \$576 million across 117 disasters. Additional information on the Public Assistance Alternative Procedure Debris Removal Pilot can be found at www.fema.gov/alternative-procedures.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and

local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

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